

Purim: Myth, Mask and Remembrance

Purim, Arthur Waskow says, is a holiday of "angry, blood-red humor," the laughter that celebrates a tyrant's overthrow. Paradoxically, it commemorates an event that may never have happened. Historians and archaeologists have never found any confirming evidence. Unlike the Maccabees, who left a kingdom as well as a legend and a holiday, Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai exist only in the megillah, the Purim story.

This probable non-event resonates backwards and forwards throughout Jewish history and legend. The megillah records the myth of the Jews' escape from genocide in a foreign land. It comes alive again each year as a mask for the many narrow escapes of Jewish history.

Like a mask, it hides — the point of the story is hidden behind absurd exaggerations and repetitions. Like a mask, it reveals through exaggeration. Like a mask, the story retold becomes decorative, imaginative, fantastic, psychedelic and bawdy. Like a mask, its only use is to costume living stories — to remind those who encounter it of what lives behind the mask.

The Purim myth embraces the preceding Shabbat: Shabbat Zachor — the Shabbat of remembrance. The Torah reading tells us to "Remember Amalek" — the enemy who attacks the helpless. When the Israelites, newly freed from Egyptian slavery, were wandering in the desert, the Amalekites attacked the strag-

glers in the rear, who were weak, famished and unable to defend themselves. The Torah tells us to forget!

Midrash brings the story up through the centuries: hundreds of years after the Exodus, King Saul spared the king of the Amalekites in battle, against the prophet Samuel's instructions. Still centuries later, Haman, a descendant of the king who Saul spared, did battle with Saul's relatives, Esther and Mordechai — and lost.

The writers of the Torah knew that some things are too horrible to either entirely forget or remember. Purim makes it possible to remember tyranny and terror by disguising them with

Continued on page 6

Departing Chair Says Good-bye and Thanks

Having begun as a proofreader and editor on the Newsletter Committee in 1988, I was asked to step in as interim chair after Howard Blechman stepped down in June 1992. It has been my pleasure and privilege, since then, to have served for an "interim" of 18 issues of the *Jewish Gaily Forward*. I lasted so long for one main reason: it was fun! Over the last year and a half we have had the good fortune of forming an excellent team of volunteers. I've developed friendships I hope will last a lifetime. Our team has gotten the *Forward* out every month, even when obstacles appeared to make it an impossibility. Our sense of humor never failed. No matter what work was ahead of us, we couldn't ignore the important issues at hand — subjects such as: what was Lot's wife's name, who's dating whom, trivial TV trivia, and the concept for the next Chanukah party.

Thanks go to the following (in no particular order). Stalwarts Richard Inlander, Betty Kalis and Robin Leonard from the old Newsletter Committee continued on and gave me their support and advice as seasoned CSZ members and leaders. Robin single-handedly brought in over a dozen new volunteers when we thought we wouldn't

get an issue out. Ivan Vincente joined the committee even before joining CSZ and became our resident layout visionary. Rose Katz has stepped in on numerous occasions to back me up — one month doing layout and proofreading by herself. Michael Bettinger has provided marvelous photos to document our CSZ history. Judy Heiman and



Lane Schickler, out-going newsletter chair, 1992–1994.

Martha Moon have been a proofreading team extraordinaire. Carolyn Pines has offered her organizational and creative insights. Sylvia Weisenberg was a delight as Distribution Coordinator for over a year. Liz Goodman replaced Sylvia in that capacity despite difficulty in getting volunteers. She has been flexible and creative in changing our procedures. Her support has come from Sam Thal, David Weinstein and Eli Weinstein who have folded, stuffed, sealed, stamped and schmoozed to get you your issue on time. Rick Wilson graciously served as Advertising Coordinator for years! Barney Ugarte, our new ad guru, is responsible for raising our revenue by \$5,000 this year. Monthly columns from Rabbi Kahn and Presidents Allan Gold and Tiela Chalmers have been an inspiration. I have learned a great deal from all those event coordinators who have worked together with me, showing their patience and grit, putting together events against sometimes overwhelming odds with short timelines.

And then there's Joe Hample. Joe joined our committee shortly before joining CSZ this past year. After bravely calling Tiela to volunteer to coordinate

Continued on page 5

President's Column

Where do we get our collective ideas, anyhow? Does the Va'ad just come up with policy questions or suggestions, or new plans or programs, out of thin air? Well, sometimes, frankly, yes, that's just how it happens. In a moment of inspiration, someone says "Why don't we do this?" and the rest of us seize upon it.

Mostly, though, our policy and planning has a slightly more purposeful and methodical beginning. Throughout the year, a lot of topics come up through the work of the PAG (President's Advisory Group), a process I described in a previous column. In addition, our Long Range Plan sets forth many programs and projects we agreed to do in the next five years, and it is being updated as we speak. Twice a year, however, past, present and future Sha'ar Zahav leaders convene for an extended conversation about the long-range issues and goals of our synagogue.

Our summer leadership retreat (which we call an Advance, at once less Catholic- and more progressive-sounding) takes place over an entire weekend. For at least the past 10 years, we have gone up to Wildwood Retreat in Guerneville from Friday night through Sunday afternoon, for meetings, workshops, fun and, of course, food. Attendees pay their own way, although limited scholarships are available. Topics generally focus on long-term planning issues, although we also make sure to have fun and build our sense of community.

In recent years we found that talking about the big issues just once a year is

not enough, so we began having a Mini-Advance in February: a day-long get-together in the city, generally focused on just one or two topics.

The agendas for both Advances are set by the — you guessed it — Advance Planning Committee, generally made up of people currently in active leadership roles. Invitations to the Advances go out to current and past leaders, as well as to some members who have expressed an interest in and willingness to get involved in future synagogue leadership.

In the past few years, we have focused on broader goals, agreeing on a shared vision, and on process issues, particularly in the areas of financial stability and diversity. This year, our Mini-Advance will turn to making our vision concrete. Our continued growth has placed a lot of demands on our current resources: our staff, our volunteers, and our building. How should we address these demands? Setting aside the issue of funding for a moment (don't worry, it's just for a moment), which areas are our priorities for expansion? We need to put together a concrete wish-list, in order to take the next step forward.

One of the most exciting things about Sha'ar Zahav's Advances is the coming together of seasoned people with newer people, and the camaraderie that comes from that renewed and renewing energy. Unlike some organizations I have belonged to, which have a few more seasoned members doing all the work year after year, we are blessed with a steady stream of fresh people, with fresh ideas and excitement and perspective. We always worry that the stream has dried up, but somehow it keeps coming, and it keeps us both honest and challenged.

I look forward, then, to an exciting

and challenging Mini-Advance this year (February 6), setting us off in some new directions. I will report back to you next month on those new directions. Stay tuned!



Tiela Chalmers

Women's Shabbat Dinner

The next women's Shabbat dinner will be held on Friday, February 18, at 6:30 pm, in the synagogue library prior to services. The Shabbat dinners have provided very pleasant opportunities to meet other women in the congregation and to catch up on activities of the Women's Chavurah. Please join us. To discuss details on dinner and to RSVP, please call Audrey Adelson (510/849-3021) by Wednesday, February 16.

Purim Preschool Chavurah

Come join our 2- to 5-year-olds and celebrate Purim with crown and mask making, singing and dancing. Reserve Sunday, February 27 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Call Jody Adelberg (510/655-6850) for further information.



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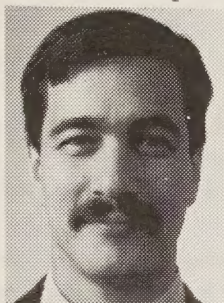
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Conversion to Judaism

For the last decade, Reform Judaism has publicly encouraged conversion to Judaism. Encouraging conversion was one component of a broader plan for Reform Jewish outreach. When it was first proposed by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, many Jewish people were very uncomfortable. Some people feared aggressive proselytization, imagining Reform Jews knocking on strangers' doors to hand out copies of the weekly Torah portion. But the deeper anxiety for most Jews caused by the call for welcoming converts to Judaism was rooted in their own ambivalence about Judaism. For self-described non-religious Jews, the serious Jewish faith of prospective converts reminded them of their own distance and separation; for Jews who remember Jewish history as an unbroken series of pogroms and rejections, the affirmative choice of others to cast their lot with the people and Covenant of Israel seemed absurd.

Reform Judaism's commitment to make Judaism more welcoming to non-Jewish spouses, to people exploring Judaism and to the children and extended families of interfaith couples is called outreach. The original goals for Reform Jewish outreach were primarily passive, in that they sought to serve people who were already in our congregations and communities or who had found their way to our doors. At the San Francisco Biennial of the UAHC in October, Rabbi Schindler called for a "missionary Judaism, for an outreach effort which would do more than just welcome the strangers in our midst, but seek them out and bid them enter." The fears aroused by Rabbi Schindler's original call for an outreach campaign resurfaced, especially after his message was poorly reported in many accounts. In order to clarify his intentions and his words, Rabbi Schindler recently sent an open letter to all of the Rabbis and convention delegates of our movement. His letter, which is excerpted below, clarifies



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

what he means by calling for a "missionary Judaism." As he explains, our willingness to share and welcome others requires that we overcome our own internalized anti-Semitism:

"What I want to do is obviate the notion that Judaism is an exclusive club for born Jews or that one must be married to a Jew in order to be welcomed by us. I want the world to know that the doors of our communal home and our hearts are open wide to all who are seeking religious meaning in their lives. Certainly, I do not want to send our young people to airports to distribute leaflets or emulate those missionaries who go from door to door to seek converts. Nor do I want to proselytize to anyone who belongs to another church or who is committed to another faith system.... Above all else, my goal is as much internal as it is external. I want to alter that mindset among our own people who too often think or even say that one has to be mentally unbalanced to choose Judaism when one is not born a Jew or married to a Jew. I see the greatest benefit of this newer effort as coming to those already Jewish who will have to explore their own relationship to Judaism in order to resolve to pass it on to others."

At CSZ, the internalized anti-Semitism and lesser ambivalences, which in the past were sometimes externalized in verbal or emotional coldness towards people who were not born Jewish, have largely disappeared. (I say this based on the number of comments made to me years ago versus what I have heard more recently.) We have not, however, done a whole lot to welcome prospective converts to Judaism, even once they became members of our synagogue. I am not talking about the aggressive steps Rabbi Schindler is proposing, but "inreach" to the people who have already found their way to us.

As a start, I would like to begin a matching program for prospective converts. I am inviting those who are already Jewish — whether by birth or by choice — to become a mentor to a person who is exploring Judaism. What will mentoring involve? Inviting a person to synagogue; sharing a place at the Seder; explaining the customs of the High Holidays. You don't have to

be a Jewish maven yourself to participate in this program. The qualifications are a love of Judaism, an openness to learning and Torah, and a readiness to share what you do know — in your head and in your heart — with another who seeks to join us. This will be a great mitzvah on behalf of another, as well as for our people and our community. The greatest benefit may go, though, to the Jewish person who is called upon to explore and deepen her or his own faith and commitment. If you would like to learn more about this new initiative, whether as an explorer (it's open to people who are already Jewish, too!) or as a guide, please call and let me know. We will have an organizing *shmooze* next month.

Alex Rader

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January Va'ad Report

The Va'ad meeting of January 10, opened with Paul Cohen leading the *D'var Torah*. Paul discussed the distinctions between the concepts of Jewish ethnicity and Jewish spirituality, and called for us to recognize the importance of observing the Jewish calendar in our day-to-day lives. He then highlighted the origins of the upcoming Tu B'Shevat festival.

Next, Treasurer Gary Sokol spoke about the highlights of our congregation's financial condition. There was some concern expressed about the possibility that not all members paid the amount due for High Holiday guest tickets.

Membership Chair Carolyn Pines presented the names of six new adult members and two children. The Va'ad took pleasure in approving them for membership in the congregation.

Rabbi Kahn covered a wide range of topics in his report. Over the course of the previous month, he has put a great deal of effort into beginning the process of updating, documenting and producing materials on lifestyle rituals. Some of the specific rituals: *aufruf*, mourning, union ceremonies, house and mezuzah dedications, *get* (divorce), *brit*, and unveilings. In the future, the rabbi would like to work on material concerning baby namings, home *shiva* services, and updated information for service leaders.

Bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs are coming up in March and April. Phyllis Mintzer has agreed to act as bar/bat mitzvah coordinator in addition to her duties as Kadimah principal. The CSZ Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide is almost ready to go to press.

The rabbi has been invited by Temple Mt. Sinai of El Paso, Texas, to be its Scholar-in-Residence this spring.

The recent, expensive repair of the



1993 Chanukah celebrants.

CSZ roof highlighted to all of us the importance of the building assessment. Although payment of the assessment is supposed to be the responsibility of all of our members, it appears that some members have not been paying their share. The Va'ad discussed ways of ensuring that everyone complies with this crucial assessment.

Robin Leonard, Carolyn Pines, Alice Prussin, Lane Schickler and Susan Tubbesing have had a discussion concerning membership participation issues and volunteer recruitment. Some new members have come to services but have felt unwelcome because no one spoke to them during the service or the oneg. Although all of us are pleased with the continued growth in CSZ's membership, we also recognize that it is important that everyone feel welcome. Several ideas came up which might help to remedy this problem. Why not initiate pre-Shabbat dinners for new members? Why not revamp the information packet which new members receive? The new packet could include the Shabbat Manual, information on the various CSZ committees, information on what CSZ does for its members, and materials keyed to the specific interests and needs of the new members. Why not invite new members to chat with CSZ officers and service leaders after Shabbat services? Why not invite new members to put a blue dot (or something similar) on their name tags so that other members could make a point of welcoming them at the oneg?

Related to this concept of new membership welcome is the concept of new member involvement in the life of the congregation. How do we encourage new members to think about volunteering some of their time? Why not have various committee information and sign-up material at the back of the sanctuary? Why not have more frequent volunteer opportunity columns in the *Forward*? Why not include a list of volunteer opportunities in the New Member Packet? CSZ needs everyone's participation if it is to be everyone's synagogue.

Spurred on by its desperate need to see *Tales of the City*, the Va'ad adjourned at 9:15 with a truncated version of *Oseh Shalom*. A brief closed session followed.

—Mark Mackler, Recorder

Writers Reading

Ruth Linden, author of *Making Stories*, *Making Selves: Feminist Reflections on the Holocaust*, and Holocaust survivor Oddette Meyers will be reading at Old Wives' Tales Bookstore on Thursday, March 17 at 8 pm. Call for more information (821-4676).

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Birthdays

1	Joan Goldman
5	Cynthia Greenberg
5	Ami Zusman
5	Steve Weitz
5	Mark Taubman-Walker
7	Ida Kuluk
8	Molly Singer
9	Mark Freeman
9	Amy Gentile
10	Ruth Miguel
10	Audrey Adelson
11	Robert Stern
11	Emma Abinanti-Sena
12	Joan Lefkowitz
13	Rabbi Nancy Flam
13	Leva Choden
14	Ron Wolberg
14	Susan Unger
14	Susan Douglass
14	Irene Ogus
15	Russell Discher
16	Sharon Murphy
17	Yael Silverberg-Willis
17	Barry Siegel
20	Hilary Zaid
21	Andrew Schwartz
22	Susan Tubbesing
22	Gail Friedlander
25	Alex Ingersoll
25	Nikki Bengal
26	Ethan Frazin
28	Steven Gaynes

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1993 Chanukah celebrants.

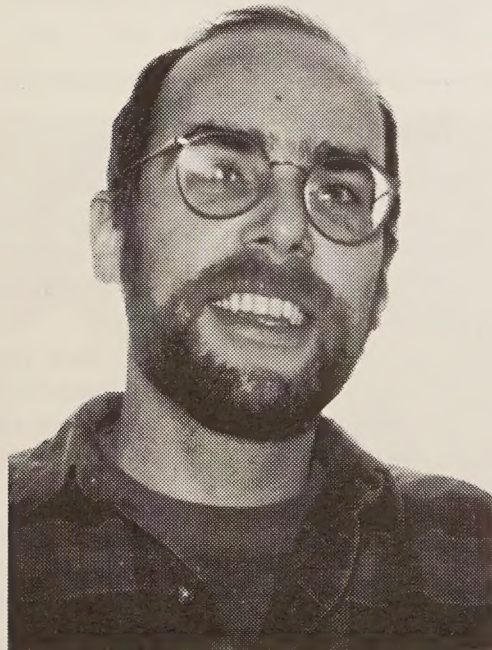
Lane Schickler

Continued from page 1

our Chanukah party this year, he has emerged unscathed with a successful event to his credit. I thank him for agreeing to take on the role of Newsletter Committee Chair as his next challenge. I have full confidence that his energy, skills and creative ideas will only serve to make the *Forward* an even better publication.

Finally, I want to thank all those who have sent in articles, short or long, often sharing personal and profound experiences with our readership. This newsletter is the voice of all our membership. Your submissions serve to inform and educate, encourage our spiritual and communal growth, and broadcast our accomplishments to lesbian/gay and Jewish organizations around the nation who look to us for CSZ's proven leadership in so many areas. Please do not hesitate to send in an article or call Joe to suggest ideas. The *Forward* has no writing staff (though that's on our wish list). It depends on you. All you have to do is type it (double-spaced) and mail or fax it to the CSZ office. Deadlines are always printed on the back page. You can also support your newsletter by offering a little time for editing, proofreading, layout, stuffing and schmoozing. You just might be risking having fun, making friends, and kvelling over the wonderful publication we produce every month.

—Lane Schickler



Joe Hample, incoming newsletter chair.

The Living Word Project

The National Poetry Association is sponsoring a unique and powerful work in response to the devastation wrought in the literary and arts communities by the AIDS crisis. The book in progress will be a collection of pieces by writers and artists who have died of AIDS. The forthcoming anthology not only mixes genres, thus composing a sort of literary and artistic quilt, but it also includes material by writers and artists from around the world.

The sponsoring organization, the National Poetry Association, is a not for profit agency which has produced an annual poetry festival since 1987. Among the poets featured and honored with awards have been such luminaries as Adrienne Rich, June Jordan, Allen Ginsberg, James Broughton, Harold Norse, Robert Duncan, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Diane Di Prima and Maya Angelou. As you literary aficionados have very likely noticed, there has been an impressive array of gay and lesbian poets. There have also been plenty of poets of color, and, naturally, Jewish poets.

The NPA's proposed anthology is to include selections from such artists as Robert Mapplethorpe; Keith Haring; Cookie Mueller, the actress and writer for the *Village Voice*; Vito Russo, the film critic; Philly Lutaaya, the Ugandan singer and lyricist; and Michel Foucault, the French philosopher. Moreover, there has been a conscious attempt to show the diverse origins of the writers and artists and of their friends and caregivers.

If you have suggestions concerning work to be included or if you would like to contribute time or money to the project, please call (648-0750) or write to: Jeffrey Lilly, National Poetry Association, The Living Word Project, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D, Room 295, San Francisco, CA 94123.

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These generous people sponsored onegs in January:

1/28 **Liz Goodman**, in honor of her conversion.

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Purim

Continued from page 1
laughter — and by claiming triumph over them.

Purim prefigures every decision to remove a mask, or to put one on, to come out of the closet, or to go into it. There are many kinds of closet, for instance denying one's identity, or one's pride, or one's difference. According to a midrash, King Achashverosh tested the Jews' loyalty by challenging them to deny their difference. He held a banquet on the first night of Pesach and ordered everyone in the capital to attend. The Jews attended instead of making seders — and nevertheless the king let Haman declare war on them. The mask of conformity didn't help them.

A mask can be hard to remove. When is the right time? Who can be trusted? In the megillah, Esther, after inviting the king and Haman to one banquet, loses heart or fears the moment is wrong. She invites them back to another banquet the next night, where at last she reveals herself as a Jew.

The details of Purim recall the details of history. Haman knows that his personal grudge and greed aren't enough to turn the king against Mordechai — even though King Achashverosh is no mental or moral giant. Haman falls back on accusing the Jews of disloyalty, of being "a people apart, who have their own laws and do not observe the king's

laws." The king, whose habits include agreeing with anyone who gains his ear, sentences all the Jews in his kingdom to death — and later, when Esther gets his attention, orders that they be allowed to defend themselves. This is burlesque, but believable burlesque. History shows it again and again: The tangle of motives; the viciousness of some in positions of authority; the recklessness of others; the endless arbitrary reversals; the twin requirements for survival,

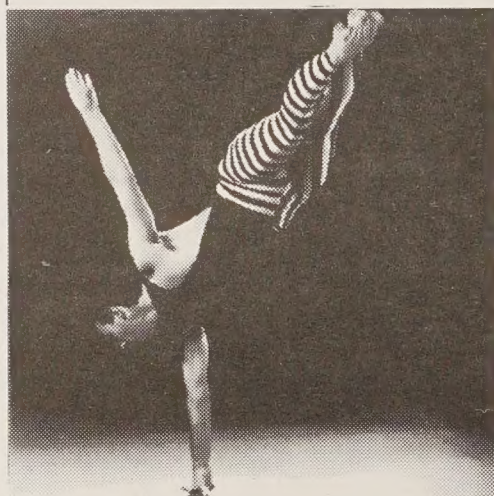
official decisions and self-defense, luck and solidarity.

Amalek succeeded in attacking the weak and famished because the strong and organized left them to straggle in the rear. But in the Purim myth the danger faces the whole community together, the weak and the strong, the poor and the rich. Esther the queen, who might have tried to save herself through silence, instead risks her life for the people. The Jews respect her leadership; all fast and mourn together when Esther asks them to fast with her. When the time comes to fight in self-defense, they all fight, in the small towns and the walled cities, throughout Achashverosh's mythical empire. On Purim, the community unites and succeeds.

The Purim myth masks the lesson: We can't afford to forget the world's Amaleks, but we can't stand to remember unless we first remember each other, our common fate and common responsibilities. Only by acting together, by defending its poorest and weakest members, can a minority community survive to laugh in the face of its enemies.

—Nina Wouk, for the Ritual Committee

JEFF FRIEDMAN



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Muscle Memory

On February 25, CSZ member Jeff Friedman will premiere "Muscle Memory," a new performance work that combines his choreography talents with oral histories he has been collecting since 1988. The performance is part of the Bay Area Dance Series at Laney College Theatre in Oakland. Call for ticket information (510/889-9501).

Brotherhood Events

Brotherhood Potluck, Sunday, February 20 at 5 pm, in the CSZ Library.

Brotherhood Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, at 7 pm, at the home of Barney Ugarte, 6445 Geary Blvd., #5, San Francisco.

Call Barney (386-2472) for more information.

Naches

To **Jody Oppen Reiss**, on the publication of her article "Providing AIDS Services in a Jewish Context" in the fall 1993 issue of the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*.

To **Ellen Lewin**, who has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to do her new research on gay and lesbian marriage ceremonies.

To **Mike Zimmerman**, on the graduation of his daughter, Shona, with an M.S.W. degree from Tulane University.

To **Nancy Meyer and Marilyn O'Keeffe**, on the birth of Daniel Neill Meyer-O'Keeffe.

JFS Offerings

Kavod/Jewish Family Service of Santa Clara County offers the following workshops and support to groups. To register, call Karen Belford (408/399-2202).

Coming Out Support Group for women and men. Supportive and confidential group facilitated by Karen Belford, MSW. Wednesdays, February 16–March 23, 7–9 pm.

Communication Workshop for Gay Men and Lesbian Couples. Enhance communication skills and deepen relationships. Co-sponsored by Billy DeFrank Center and Kavod/Jewish Family Service. \$25 per couple. Sunday, February 20, 10 am–3 pm.

Jewish Parents of Lesbians and Gay Men monthly discussion group. Meets at 987 University Ave., Suite 27, Los Gatos. Free. Tuesday, February 22, 7–8:30 pm.

Jerome J. Davis 1948-1994

Jerome J. (Jerry) Davis, age 45, died of AIDS on January 9 at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco. He was preceded in death by his spouse, Jeffrey Clopper, in May 1987.

Jerry was born in Philadelphia. He graduated from Temple University and Villanova University Law School. In 1973, he moved to Washington, DC, where he worked for the United States Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor, as an attorney in the Labor-Management Laws Division and the Civil Rights Division. In the Civil Rights Division, Jerry rose to the rank of Assistant Counsel.

In Washington, Jerry was active in gay and local political organizations. He was a member of the Langston Hughes and Gertrude Stein Gay Democratic Clubs. He helped organize the first National AIDS Vigil in October 1983. He was elected as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner from 1985 to 1989. From 1988 to 1990 he was a board member of the AIDS Foundation of the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

In January 1990 Jerry moved to San Francisco, where he worked as Assistant to the Director of the Human Rights Commission of the City and County of San Francisco until his retirement in 1992. At the Human Rights Commission, he was principal author of "Approaching 2000 — Meeting the Challenges to San Francisco's Families," the report which led to

legislation providing health benefits for domestic partners of San Francisco city employees.

Jerry was also active in local and national politics in San Francisco. He worked on the election campaigns of Roberta Achtenberg for Supervisor and Art Agnos for Mayor, and was Assistant to the Political Communications Director of Northern California for the Clinton/Gore campaign. He was a strong supporter of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA). In 1991, he was appointed to the board of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), and was Co-Chair of the ALRP Board from 1992 until his death.

In addition to his impressive accomplishments, Jerry is remembered most by his family and friends for his enthusiasms. Whether he was dish-ing local politicians, attending the San Francisco Opera, dancing at the Pleasuredome, working out at the Embarcadero YMCA, or shopping at Nicole Miller, Jerry's life was full of chutzpah and humor.

Jerry is survived by his loving sister, Michele F. Davis of Princeton, NJ, and by an extended family of friends, including John Stansell, Bruce Williams, Janet Seldon, Rob Towle, Joyce Newstat, Dyan Dreisbach, Bruce Cohen, Ed Avant and Arthur Marcus.

A memorial service was held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Teachers To Raise "Voices of Peace"

The annual Bay Area Jewish Educators Conference will bring synagogue school teachers and principals together from CSZ and all over northern California on Sunday, February 6 for a day of study, song, and celebration. This year the theme of the conference is "Voices of Peace." Keynotespeaker Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice will be followed by a whole array of workshops (more than 35 of them), study sessions, special learning tracks, and social action projects — all focused on the idea of peace: among family, friends, races, religions, and nations. For information call the Bureau of Jewish Education (751-6983).

Second Annual Women's Chavurah Bowling Night!

Back by very popular demand, the Women's Chavurah will hit (and we mean hit) the lanes again, on Saturday, February 19 at Japantown Bowl (smoke free!) for what promises to be a wild and crazy night. Don't worry if you haven't thrown a bowling ball since junior high, you'll be in good company. Japantown Bowl is at Post and Webster. We'll begin at 6 pm and if we can still walk, head out for a bite to eat after the award ceremony (best shirt, most gutter balls, incomparable style...). Don't miss the athletic event of the Sha'ar Zahav season. Please let Susan Tubbesing know if you can make it (510/482-3740).

Vocolot Seeks New Voices

Vocolot, a Jewish women's a cappella group, is auditioning new members. Call Linda Hirshhorn (654-0799).

Jews on Broadway

The Bureau of Jewish Education presents Ruth Rainero, soprano, and Jonathan Schwartz, pianist, in "Jews on Broadway: More Great Songs," on Sunday, January 30, at 2 pm, at the Jewish Community Library, 601 14th Ave., San Francisco (751-6983). Admission is free.



Chanukah celebrants sing out!

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, because such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.

Elliot Block, in honor of Tom Papera.

Robert T. Mendle, M.D., in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn.

Marilyn O'Keeffe & Nancy Meyer, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Julie Moed & Shelley Eisenman, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Edward M. Pollock, in honor of Don Albert, Jeffrey Davidson, Steve Elman, Rena Frantz, Lane Schickler and Michael Zimmerman for all their help.

Leslie Bergson, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Jonathan Schwartz, in honor of Henry Mach's service leading.

David Weinstein, to celebrate the lives of Rose & Izzy Weinstein and Evelyn Wolfer.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Avrum Ya'kov Berenstein.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the birth of Jenna Liat Barasch.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the birth of Daniel Neill Meyer-O'Keeffe.

Rob Tat, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Hal Stoll, in memory of Rose Stollowitz.

H.M. Rosenfeld, in honor of Peter Rosenfeld.

Rachel Wahba & Judy Dlugacz, in loving memory of Katie.

Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines, in honor of Jody Reiss and the publication of her article "Providing AIDS

Services in a Jewish Context" in *The Journal of Jewish Communal Service*.

Jeffrey Sundheim, in memory of Robert G. Sundheim.

Samuel Kasoff & Friche Stern, in memory of Frank Hyman.

Judy Gaer & Susan Gaer, in memory of Lillian Luger.

Larry Wexler, in honor of the anniversary of Shelly Spiro & Gabrielle Kassner.

Larry Wexler, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Larry Wexler, in appreciation of Michelle Auerbach-Brode's contributions to the CSZ Ritual Committee.

Michael Zimmerman, in memory of Max Shore, grandfather of Nathan & Jacob Robinson.

Liz Goodman, in honor of Ellen Lewin's being awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.

Jane Levin & Robert Rifkin, in memory of Michael Peter Yellin.

Mark Mackler & Ingu Yun, in honor

of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Steven M. Polsky

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Joshua Kosman

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Edward Anisman & Claire Sherman

Sandra Portman, in memory of Mouse Biderman.

Betty Kalis, in memory of Phillip Kalis.

Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

AIDS Fund

Gilda & Melvin Winiker, in honor of Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart's new home.

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Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in memory of Max Shore, grandfather of Nathan & Jacob Robinson.

Rabbi Judy Shanks & Temple Isaiah, in appreciation of the presentation given by Carolyn Pines and Paul Cohen.

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of the yahrzeits of his mother and father.

Building Fund

Lyssa Newhall

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Florence & Steve Nacamulli, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Education Fund

Jody Reiss, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Rabbi Eric Weiss & Dan Alpert, in honor of Jeffrey Argentos' new position.

General Fund—High Holidays

Barak Gale

Lama Strauss & Gary Birnbaum

Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

Maxine Shear, in memory of Lil Moed.

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Betty Kalis, in memory of Dorothy Hodes.

Kadimah Fund

Ron Lezell, in honor of the birth of Daniel Neill Meyer-O'Keeffe.

George & Phyllis Mintzer, in honor of Sarah Weinberger's yahrzeit.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of the birth of Daniel Neill Meyer-O'Keeffe.

Ida Kuluk, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Sinai Memorial Chapel

Sandra Portman, in honor of the birth of her son Michael Aaron Portman.

Library Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of the birth of Jeremy Rubin Michelson.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael Chabon & Ayelet Waldman, in appreciation of Rabbi Yoel Kahn

on the occasion of their wedding.

Jane & Mark Graeven, in memory of Alexander Boskoff.

Alvin Baum, Jr., in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

David Lester, in memory of Frank Hyman.

Annie Winters & Nina Raff, in honor of the first birthday of Reuben Isaac Winters-Raff.

Edward M. Pollock, in memory of Alan Dean Ellis on the occasion of his yahrzeit.

Hal Podgur, in memory of Esther Lewis.

Lolma Olson, on the occasion of her mother's yahrzeit.

Susan Unger & Pam Erwin

Rhoda Levinson

Allan Berenstein

Daniel Chesir

David & Michelle Auerbach-Brode

Sandra Portman, in honor of Rabbi Kahn for his recognition of all the Sha'ar Zahav children during Michael Aaron Portman's naming service.

Classifieds

GAY JEWISH MAN, HIV+ in Missouri, seeks a pen pal; he will be relocating to San Francisco within the next year and would like to become more familiar with his home-to-be. Call CSZ office to get in touch.

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY to discuss books, plays and films? To exchange your views on art, politics and contemporary culture? Then join writer/educator Susan Sobel-Feldman's ongoing discussion group, *The Literati Circle*. This group meets twice a month in Susan's Richmond District townhouse for lively analyses of stories, poetry, essays, plays and whatever else strikes our relevant fancies. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per meeting. For more information, call Susan (668-2272).

Special thanks to the law firm of **Farella, Braun & Martell** for the donation of a computer to the CSZ office.

The following donors to the Allan Gold Hoopla Fund were inadvertently omitted from the list in last month's *Jewish Gaily Forward*:

Jerome Goldstein

Phyllis & Howard Mackler

Edward Pollock

Eli Weinstein



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Forward Considering Mailing Changes

One thing we are conscious of as members of the *Forward* staff is how expensive it is to put out a monthly newsletter. And so we have been discussing ways to raise revenue and cut back our expenses.

You've probably noticed the increased number of ads; this has brought in much money, thanks to the hard work of Barney Ugarte.

Now we are considering another change in order to save money: *mailing the Forward without an envelope*.

What we'd like to do is place a blank piece of paper over the back page of the *Forward* and then fold it so that only the blank page shows. We'd then staple or otherwise seal the newsletter closed.

Saving money is not the only reason to make this change:

- The newsletter stuffing committee would save a lot of time.
- The *Forward* was originally placed in an envelope because the majority of our members were not out of the closet. As Rabbi Kahn said, however, at the Va'ad meeting where this was discussed, "Most of our members now live openly as lesbians and gay men. They would probably welcome the opportunity to receive the *Forward* without an envelope."

Of course, we recognize that there are members who have confidentiality concerns and cannot or do not wish to receive the *Forward* without an envelope. And we would certainly send these members their copy of the *Forward* in an envelope, just as it is sent now.

If you would prefer to continue to receive the *Forward* in an envelope, please call the synagogue office and tell our new office manager, Lea Salem. Your responses will determine how we will proceed.

Dr. Diane Sabin

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Anniversaries

- 14 Cheryl Sena & Abby Abinanti
23 Yael & Luana Silverberg-Willis
24 Mark Vogel & Bill Denebeim



The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, non-members will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

Chair: Joe Hample (621-7675)

Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Judy Heiman, Richard Inlander, Betty Kalis, Rose Katz, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Carolyn Pines, Ivan Vincente

Photography: Michael Bettinger

Advertising: Barney Ugarte

Distribution: Liz Goodman (coordinator), Sam Thal, David Weinstein, Eli Weinstein

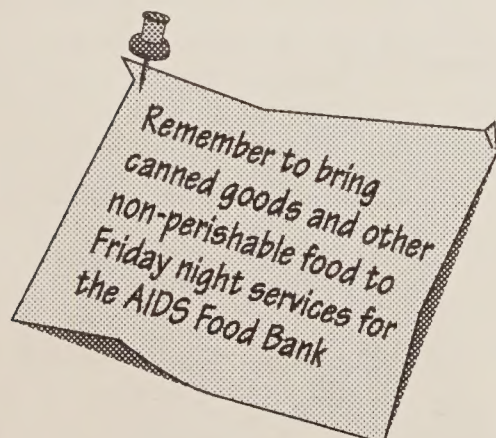
Typesetting: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

Printing: Lou Greene

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.



Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn (861-6932)

Officers:

President, Tiela Chalmers (431-4312)
Administrative Vice President,
David Stein (863-4769)
Program Vice President,
open
Treasurer, Gary Sokol
Recorder, Mark Mackler

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Chamey
Daniel Chesir
Ida Kuluk
Ron Lezell
Carolyn Pines
Ora Prochovnick
Nathan Robinson
Lane Schickler
Susan Tubbesing

Office Personnel:

Office Manager, Lea Salem
Rabbi's Secretary, David Couch

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin and Bill Goldstein
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Brotherhood, Barney Ugarte
Building, Ellen Gierson
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson and Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, Lisa Katz and Roz Fuerman
Education, open
Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander

Finance, Brett Trueman
Fine Arts, Alice Prussin
Fundraising, Michael Zimmerman and Ellie Cohen
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Leadership Development, Irene Ogus
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Carolyn Pines
Newsletter, Joe Hample (621-7675)
Oneg, Debbi Jacobs-Levine
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, David Stein
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Religious School, Trudi Hauptman
Ritual, Frank Yellin
Social Action, Stan Kern
Social Program, by committee
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Liaison, open).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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FEBRUARY

שבט-אדר

1 Tuesday 20 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15 pm, Intro to Prayerbook Hebrew 1B 8:30 pm, Modern Jewish Philosophies 	11 Friday 30 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service 	19 Saturday 8 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kadimah, Presidents' Day Weekend 6 pm, Women's Chavurah bowling night 	26 Saturday 15 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 am, Kadimah family program for Purim
2 Wednesday 21 Shevat	12 Saturday 1 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 10:30 am, Shabbat Service 	20 Sunday 9 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pm, Brotherhood potluck in library 	27 Sunday 16 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 am, Kaiser Brunch 10:30 am, Purim Preschool Chavurah
3 Thursday 22 Shevat	13 Sunday 2 Adar	21 Monday 10 Adar Presidents' Day CSZ Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pm, Healing service 7 pm, Newsletter proofreading/layout 	28 Monday 17 Adar
4 Friday 23 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service 	14 Monday 3 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting 	22 Tuesday 11 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15 pm, Intro to Prayerbook Hebrew 1B 8:30 pm, Modern Jewish Philosophies 	1 Tuesday, March 1 18 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Brotherhood Steering Committee, home of Barney Ugarte 7:15 pm, Intro to Prayerbook Hebrew 1B 8:30 pm, Modern Jewish Philosophies
5 Saturday 24 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 	15 Tuesday 4 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15 pm, Intro to Prayerbook Hebrew 1B 8:30 pm, Modern Jewish Philosophies 	23 Wednesday 12 Adar	2 Wednesday, March 2 19 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Newsletter distribution
6 Sunday 25 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 am, Mini-Advance 	16 Wednesday 5 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Newsletter editing 	24 Thursday 13 Adar Purim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Megillah Madness (see insert for more information) 	3 Thursday, March 3 20 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee Meeting
7 Monday 26 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pm, Healing Service 	17 Thursday 6 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting 	25 Friday 14 Adar Purim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service 	4 Friday, March 4 21 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service, Tiela Chalmers and Paul Cohen
8 Tuesday 27 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15 pm, Intro to Prayerbook Hebrew 1B 8:30 pm, Modern Jewish Philosophies 	18 Friday 7 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Women's Chavurah Shabbat dinner 8:15 pm, East Bay Service 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service 	Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.	
9 Wednesday 28 Shevat			5 Saturday, March 5 22 Adar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah
10 Thursday 29 Shevat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Children's Education meeting 			

MARCH FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

To place a display ad, call Barney Ugarte (386-2472).

To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

No late submissions will be published without a deadline extension arranged in advance with the newsletter chair. Any CSZ member may submit a typed, double-spaced article by mail or fax (861-6081) to CSZ, Attn: Gaily Forward.

East Bay Services

2/18 Ed Tanovitz's, 1612 East 38th St., Oakland, 510/482-4825.

3/18 Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott's, 4042 Maple Ave., Oakland, 510/530-4673.